



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

Be-8

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

WM31/1121

STEPHEN G. RUDISLL
ARNOLD WHITE & DURKEE
PO BOX 4433
HOUSTON TX 77210

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED
09/076,528	05/12/98	069	DO, A	2624 11/21/00
First Named Applicant	MENNIE,	35 USC 154(b) term ext. = 0 Days.		

TITLE OF INVENTION METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISCRIMINATING AND COUNTING DOCUMENTS

ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEE DUE	DATE DUE
2	CUMM1391FRE	382-135.000	V42	UTILITY	NO	\$1240.00 02/21/01

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.

THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.

HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE COPY

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/076,528

Applicant(s)

Mennie et al.

Examiner

Anh Hong Do

Group Art Unit

2624



All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

☒ This communication is responsive to Amendement on 8/11/2000

☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-69

☒ The drawings filed on May 12, 1998 are acceptable.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

☐ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS

☐ because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.

☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. _____

☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on _____, which has been approved by the examiner.

☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any response to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 15

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

JOSE L. COUSO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Art Unit: 2624

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Application

1. The petition, filed on 5/9/2000 and again on 6/22/2000, to withdraw from issue under 37 CFR 1.313© (2) has been granted on 8/16/2000.

The request, filed on 5/9/2000 and again on 6/22/2000, for a Continued Application (RCA) under 37 CFR 1.114(b) based on parent Application No. 09/076,528 is acceptable and a RCA has been established. An action on the RCA follows.

2. Claims 1-69 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 13, 14, 18, 27, 30, 34 and 36-69 are independent claims.

Regarding claims 1, 42, 48, 55, and 62, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- the height dimension of the housing being about 4 times the smaller cross-sectional dimension of the smallest dimensioned bill to be identified by the device;

- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the bill based on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information.

Regarding claims 13, 43, 49, 56, and 63, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- the depth dimension of the housing being about 5 times the smaller cross-sectional

Art Unit: 2624

dimension of the smallest dimensioned bill to be identified by the device;

- the width dimension of the housing being about 2 times the larger cross-sectional dimension of the smallest dimensioned bill to be identified by the device;

- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the bill based on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information.

Regarding claims 14, 44, 50, 57, and 64, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- the height dimension of the housing being 10 inches;
- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the bill based on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information.

Regarding claims 18, 51, 58, and 65, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- at least one stacker wheel having one portion extending into the transport path and another portion extending into the output bin, said stacker wheel being located along said transport path and spaced apart from the second roller along said transport path by a distance less than the narrow dimension of the bill;

- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the bill based on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master

Art Unit: 2624

characteristic information.

Regarding claims 27, 40, 46, 52, 59, and 66, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- a footprint of the device defined by the area obtained by multiplying the depth dimension by the width dimension being about 125 square inches;

- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the bill based on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information.

Regarding claims 30, 41, 47, 53, 60, and 67, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- the volume of the housing, defined by the product of the depth dimension and the height dimension and the width dimension being about 1,250 cubic inches;

- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the bill based on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information.

Regarding claims 34, 54, 61, 68, and 69, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- a memory storing master characteristic information associated with at least one genuine bill from each of at least two currency systems;

- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the bill based

Art Unit: 2624

on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information, wherein the system is relatively compact.

Regarding claim 36, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- the height dimension being about 4 times the smaller cross-sectional dimension of a U.S. bill;

- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the U.S. bill based on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information.

Regarding claim 37, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- the depth dimension of the housing being about 5 times the smaller cross-sectional dimension of U.S. bill;

- the width dimension of the housing being about 2 times the larger cross-sectional dimension of the U.S. bill;

- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the bill based on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information.

Regarding claim 38, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- the height dimension being 10 inches;

- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the bill based on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master

Art Unit: 2624

characteristic information.

Regarding claims 39, 45, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- at least one stacker wheel having one portion extending into the transport path and another portion extending into the output bin, said stacker wheel being located along said transport path and spaced apart from the second roller along said transport path by a distance less than the narrow dimension of a U.S. bill;

- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the bill based on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information.

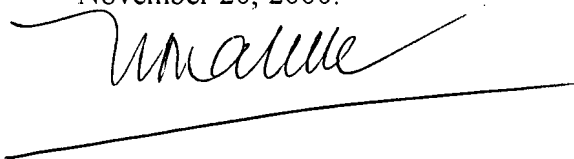
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Contact Information

4. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anh Hong Do whose telephone number is (703) 308-6720.

November 20, 2000.




JOSE L. COUSIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER